

Judge John M. Facciola  
US District Court  
for the District of Columbia  
333 Constitution Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20001

September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011

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Washington, DC 20016

Your Honor,

I am writing with regards to United States of America vs. Daniel Choi.

The right to peaceful protest in front of a national monument as significant as the White House is an important and protected expression of free speech under the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment to the United States Constitution. Lt. Dan Choi was not the first person to exercise that right, nor will he be the last.

Lt. Choi is a prominent activist, and his action last November at the White House undoubtedly influenced the end of Don't Ask, Don't Tell thereafter. But despite this month's repeal of DADT, the Department of Justice insists on pursuing its case against Lt. Choi.

Firedoglake.com and the over 9,100 activists who support Lt. Choi believe that the question at hand is not whether he broke any laws by exercising his right to free speech in front of the White House, *but whether the government is selectively and vindictively punishing Lt. Choi due to his perceived influence as a public figure.*

As such, we believe this case is of the utmost importance because it will set an important and potentially dangerous precedent for peaceful demonstration in this country. We urge you to consider the government's motives in pursuing this case against Lt. Choi, and what the outcomes will mean not only for the defendant, but for anyone wishing to exercise their right to free speech in America.

Respectfully,

Brian Sonenstein  
Digital Strategy Director  
Firedoglake.com